



Recognition Ceremony & Dinner

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS *10th*
Anniversary

NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE
LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLORIDA
JUNE 30, 2005



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C 20410-0001

THE SECRETARY

Dear Neighborhood Networks Conference Attendees:

The Neighborhood Networks 10th Anniversary National Training Conference presents a unique opportunity to pay tribute to those who have helped make Neighborhood Networks successful.

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, I would like to congratulate the remarkable individuals and outstanding organizations that will be honored during the Neighborhood Networks Recognition Ceremony. The award winners have earned much deserved recognition for their contributions to their community and the Neighborhood Networks Initiative.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank all of the nominees and those who nominated Neighborhood Networks stakeholders and contributors. The Recognition Ceremony is a tribute to all of you and all Neighborhood Networks centers and participants nationwide.

For the past decade, Neighborhood Networks has been on the forefront of "Delivering Technology Access to America's Communities." The continuing success of this effort will build upon the determination, sacrifice, and selfless dedication shown by center staff, residents, property owners and managers, partners, volunteers, HUD staff, and everyone who generously supports Neighborhood Networks.

I hope you find the Recognition Ceremony and National Training Conference rewarding. Happy 10th Anniversary and have a safe trip home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alphonso Jackson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alphonso Jackson

POEM

“Neighborhood Networks, Before We Met You”

Written by Trayvia White and the Smarter Summer 2004 Class (Tanisha, Cheri, Mercedes, Keyaira S., Ke’Aira R., Kristina, Virlawnda, Diamond, Timothy, Asia, and Kahadija)

Performed by Trayvia White.

Before We Met You...

Doing homework was uncool.
Staying out all night and never going to school.
Fighting everyday from dusk to dawn.
Steal people’s jewelry and going to get it pawned.

Reppin’ our set with no fear at all.
Lying to parents ‘bout going to school when you’re really going to the mall.
Education was for dummies,
Addition and subtraction for junkies. . .

All of this was happening before we met you.

After we met you...

Doing our homework was a breeze.
Going to sleep at nine and getting up at six a.m. with ease.
Using words like thank you and please.

Having someone to come to, to help us with things we needed.
Calming us down when we’re mad and letting us know there’s no reason to be heated.
Helping and respecting our elders.
You let us know and realized we are not failures.
All of this started happening after we met you. . .
And we just wanted to say Thank You.

PROGRAM

Introduction of Dais Guests.....Announcer

Welcome and Opening Remarks.....Herman Ransom
Director, Kansas City Multifamily Hub

Invocation.....Carmen Porco
Executive Director, Housing Ministries of American Baptists of Wisconsin

THE DINNER

Poem Reading.....Trayvia White
Youth Resident, Rainbow Terrace Neighborhood Networks Center

Remarks from a Center of Excellence.....Albert J. Browne
Vice President, Community Preservation and Development Corporation

MUSICAL SELECTION

Keynote Address.....Randal D. Pinkett
President & CEO, BCT Partners

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Closing Remarks.....Herman Ransom
Director, Kansas City Multifamily Hub

THE HONOREES

BEACON OF LIGHT AWARD honors Multifamily Neighborhood Networks centers that have had a significant impact on the residents of HUD multifamily housing properties and their surrounding communities.

Awards in this category presented by: Herman Ransom, Director, Kansas City Multifamily Hub, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Gateway at Edgewood Terrace

The Gateway at Edgewood Terrace Neighborhood Networks Center in Washington, D.C. stands as a premier example of the power of technology as a tool to create community change. Edgewood Terrace's workforce development programs have graduated more than 1,000 people with the office technology skills they need to pursue economic self-sufficiency in high-demand careers. Adult residents who completed the 18-week career-training program in 2004 tripled their average annual income—from \$9,400 prior to enrollment to \$26,800 at time of graduation.

Edgewood Terrace's parent company, Community Preservation and Development Corporation (CPDC), understands the power of partnerships. Under the leadership of Albert Browne, CPDC has leveraged \$10 million in in-kind contributions from corporate partners. For example, Netier (now Wyse) sold thin-client computers for residential units at a 40 percent discount, Cisco Systems discounted switches by 40 percent, and Catholic Universities provided \$150,000 in scholarships for graduates of Edgewood Terrace's workforce training program. Equally impressive, Edgewood Terrace leverages its annual excess rent payments of \$173,000 into \$2 million annually in cash and in-kind resources from corporations such as Microsoft, Verizon, Capitol One, and several foundations.

What makes this CPDC property unique is the way in which it has transformed the Edgewood/Brookland community. As a result of CPDC's investment in Edgewood Terrace, the property values in the neighborhood have increased by at least 40 percent since the year 2000. Home Depot, Giant Foods, and other major retailers have moved into the neighborhood, turning a neighborhood once known as "Little Beirut" into a beacon of light.

The Gateway at Buckman Road

The Gateway at Buckman Road embodies the Neighborhood Networks mission of promoting self-sufficiency and providing technology access to low-income communities. The Buckman Road Neighborhood Networks Center, established in 1998, began offering technology enhanced programs in 2000. Buckman Road is a 1,685 square foot state-of-the-art computer learning center with 34 computers. Youth development programs, offered in partnership with the Fairfax County Public School System, include reading and literacy support for primary grade students; reading fluency for 4th to 8th graders; conflict resolution and mediation; and career exploration for middle and high school students. High frequency of intervention, low student-to-teacher ratios, and computer-assisted differentiated instruction are the keys to children's academic successes. Adults learn independent computer-based job search techniques, financial management and communication, and self-advocacy skills. In 2004, Buckman Road's Career and Skill Enhancement Program graduated 105 students, 59 of whom received promotions or new jobs as a direct result of the program. Twelve students entered college, and five received their GED.

Friendship Village Neighborhood Networks Center

The New Friendship Village Community Neighborhood Networks Center teaches children on the 144-unit multifamily property the value of entrepreneurship. What began as a community garden has been transformed into a successful business venture “Sassy Salsa from the Village.”

In the summer of 2000, the Friendship Village Neighborhood Networks Center, in conjunction with the South Kansas City Urban 4H, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the Food Circle’s Networking Program and the Kansas City Community Gardens created a 10-bed community garden. In addition to growing an abundant crop of vegetables, the children also created a salsa recipe using only the fresh ingredients from their community garden. The children made a presentation at the National 4H Achievement Day celebration where they received eight 1st place and two 2nd place ribbons for their efforts with their community garden and their salsa.

Eventually, the children decided that they wanted to bottle and sell their product. They created a name, designed the label, found a way to finance their start-up costs and initial inventory, developed a marketing plan and determined what they would do with any profits from their venture. In December 2000, “Sassy Salsa from the Village” was born and this venture still exists today. Proceeds from the sales of the salsa support the Neighborhood Networks center’s programs.

LIVING THE DREAM AWARD honors multifamily property residents who have taken advantage of Neighborhood Networks center resources and made significant advances toward self-improvement and self-sufficiency.

Awards in this category presented by Encarnacion “Connie” Loukatos, Director, Philadelphia Multifamily Hub, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Claudia Washington, Restoration Towers Computer Learning Center

Claudia Washington has outstanding ambition and drive. She joined the beginner computer class with absolutely no computer knowledge. Although a novice with the computer, she was able to work independently. In an effort to gain more knowledge about the computer, she often collaborated with the advanced students in the class. Her thirst to master the computer was remarkable, often studying on her own. Two years after her first computer class, she is an advanced teacher. She independently runs the Restoration Towers Computer Learning Center where she teaches daily classes at all levels and works with her resident members and community residents. Ms. Washington promptly provides a weekly report of students’ progress and attendance. She has been providing these services for free for one year. Ms. Washington is an individual who is living the dream. Not only did she succeed in a field in which she was unfamiliar, she is also sharing her knowledge with others.

Rosilyn Rembert, Smith-Keys Computer Learning Center

Rosilyn Rembert has taken advantage of the opportunities offered by the Smith-Keys Computer Learning Center to build a better life for her children and herself. With determination, she set out to improve herself by learning Microsoft Word and keyboarding, and received a 40-hour certification for both in August 2003. Within 30 days of receipt of her certificate, Ms. Rembert was offered a job in the Miller County Tax Assessor’s Office, where she is still employed. In addition to her employment, Ms. Rembert is an active participant in the lives of her 12-year-old daughter and 8-year-old twin boys. By taking advantage of the programs offered by her Neighborhood Networks center, Ms. Rembert is able to provide for her children’s future.

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR honors multifamily property residents whose actions promote a positive image of the Neighborhood Networks center on the property and/or in the community.

Awards in this category presented by Robert Reavis, Director, Atlanta Multifamily Hub, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Michelle Bloise, St. Anthony Plaza Learning Center

Michelle Bloise was one of the original tenants on the tenant advisory board that helped start the St. Anthony Plaza Learning Center. Many families have been helped by the center, including Ms. Bloise. She volunteers four hours a week to assist the learning center with tutoring, arts/crafts, and project implementation. The center often uses Ms. Bloise as a center representative with stakeholders. She made an outstanding presentation on behalf of the learning center to the United Way that resulted in additional funding for the center. United Way indicated that Ms. Bloise's presentation persuaded the review panel to fund the center. She has been involved in the program for seven years.

Lakeitah Graves, Operation P.E.A.C.E. Neighborhood Networks Center

Lakeitah Graves is a true ambassador of good will to Operation P.E.A.C.E., Inc. and the community. In 1997, Ms. Graves made a commitment to volunteer with Operation P.E.A.C.E. as an AmeriCorps Learn and Serve volunteer, eventually becoming an AmeriCorps VISTA in the following two years as teen program coordinator. Ms. Graves' legacy remains a vital component of Operation P.E.A.C.E. programs and services, such as a Teen Entrepreneurial Program and Workforce Preparation. While these programs are still blooming today, Ms. Graves is actively using her talents to develop a safe and structured environment, strong parental communication, and community relationships for Operation P.E.A.C.E. Year Round Youth Programs. Even though Ms. Graves attended college full time, the center has always been able to depend on her to commit 110 percent to the community and the program. The community recognizes her as an outstanding representative.

CATALYST FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE honors multifamily Neighborhood Networks center staff or volunteers whose dedicated commitment and outreach efforts have brought about measurable change in the center, on the property where the center is located, and/or in the local community.

Awards in this category presented by Mary Ann Henderson, Director, Baltimore Multifamily Hub, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Ferdinand Juluke, Director, Jacksonville Multifamily Hub, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Engrid Gibbs, Operation P.E.A.C.E. Neighborhood Networks Center

Engrid Gibbs is the true embodiment of change. It is her passion for change that caused her to leave corporate America, and move into the nonprofit sector where she knew she could make changes in her community. After starting her own nonprofit organization, Millennium Training, in 1998, Ms. Gibbs joined Operation P.E.A.C.E. in 2000 as technology coordinator and collaborative partner in an initiative to provide a full community technology program. Ms. Gibbs spent countless hours teaching classes, performing evaluations, creating reports, and developing a system so that a person could “create a career” instead of simply “finding a job.” Ms. Gibbs formed another partnership to bring in instructors and training for A+ Computer Repair/Technical Support, Microsoft Office User Specialist, and PC Basic Skills for the community. With an enthusiasm for making a difference in peoples’ overall quality of life, Ms. Gibbs brought her passion for career-driven personal development and technology building in underserved communities to Operation P.E.A.C.E. Ms. Gibbs is currently the program director at Operation P.E.A.C.E., and applies her passion to every facet of the organization from the Youth Program to the Swingin’ Senior Citizens to not only maintain the program areas, but to expand them without losing quality.

Lora Strobeen, LaGrave Learning Center/Continental Homes Learning Center

Lora Strobeen has worked with the Continental Homes Learning Center since 2002. In addition to keeping up with the constant changes in software and hardware applications, Ms. Strobeen has learned network administration, Web site design and management, A+ training, and many other technology skills. She has developed a series of computer classes that are open to the public for a small fee. The income from these classes has covered most of the cost of the center’s afterschool program. Ms. Strobeen supervises several employees and volunteers, and provides technical support to several partner agencies. In 2004, Ms. Strobeen developed and implemented the TechForce Program, which brings together grant resources from the Beaumont Foundation and Microsoft to provide a unique, 8- to 12-week, self-directed software skills training program to residents, Family Self-Sufficiency participants, and clients of other agencies. She has been a significant factor in improving the lives of hundreds of people.

Mary Cabriele, The Gateway at Buckman Road

Mary Cabriele is the founding manager of the Buckman Road Neighborhood Networks Center. For seven years, she has doggedly pursued and enhanced partnerships that strengthen the center. Ms. Cabriele established partnerships with educational institutions that enhanced the quality of on-site programming and created pathways to continuing education. Some of the educational partners include Northern Virginia Community College, Fairfax County Public Schools’ Bryant Adult Education Center, and Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). The NOVA program will expose residents to their potential as college students. In addition to education partnerships, she has nurtured private sector partnerships. Microsoft donates software to the center. Thanks to Ms. Cabriele’s leadership, 105 adult students have completed the Career and Skill Enhancement Program. Over 50 percent of the program’s participants received promotions and new jobs.

Victoria Fernandez, Summercrest Apartments

Ms. Fernandez is a model for Neighborhood Networks center staff nationally. She goes above and beyond her job duties to ensure quality of service and quality of care to all the senior residents at Summercrest Apartments. She developed a Neighborhood Networks center that emphasizes computer access and literacy to all of the senior residents. In today's technology-driven society, this program allows the senior residents to avoid falling victim to the digital divide. In the classes, the seniors learn how to sign up for e-mail accounts; where to find links to healthcare Web sites; where to go to read newspapers in their native languages; and how to research various subjects. Under her tenure, the Neighborhood Networks center has grown and exemplifies its underlying values of empowering resident, supporting self-sufficiency, and promoting a sense of well-being.

Thomas Hoffman, College Arms Neighborhood Networks Center

Mr. Hoffman has been the online service coordinator for the College Arms Neighborhood Networks Center since 2001. He overcame the challenge of low resident involvement by diligently working to advertise programs. His dedication to marketing the program resulted in a 300 percent increase in resident and surrounding community participation in computer classes. Mr. Hoffman has facilitated 110 basic computer classes and 16 hardware classes. His center receives an average of 200 monthly visits to the tutorial assistance program, and recently gained national and international recognition as a test site for BellSouth's wireless broadband equipment.

Kim Timms, Oasis Neighborhood Networks Center

Kim Timms is the founder of the Oasis Neighborhood Networks Center in Fort Worth, Texas. In 2000, Ms. Timms wrote a successful proposal for a HUD Drug Elimination grant to remodel an abandoned building. Since that time, her center has become a whirlwind of activities for residents of three multifamily properties. Ms. Timms has helped to create a mothers' support group, a fathers' support group, a senior citizen group, a basketball team, a cheerleading team, a motorcycle club, a preschool program, an afterschool program, and a GED program that recently produced five graduates—one of whom is now attending Texas Southern University. She has also partnered with the Texas Workforce Commission to operate an on-site Welfare to Work program. Ms. Timms' work has been well received by her residents and surrounding community, as evidenced by the more than 100 volunteers that support her center.

CHAMPION FOR CHANGE honors multifamily property owners and managers that have demonstrated a commitment to the Neighborhood Networks Initiative by providing resources and support for a sustained period of time.

Awards in this category presented by Charles Famuliner, Director, Richmond, VA Multifamily Program Center, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Westminster Company

Since its inception 10 years ago, Westminster Company believes it has a responsibility to provide residents with positive choices and opportunities necessary to improve families' quality of life. Westminster Company currently has 32 Neighborhood Networks centers in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Many centers receive in-kind contributions including computers, printers, and other equipment. The centers offer life skills training on topics such as computer training, parenting, GED and SAT preparation, finances, health and nutrition, fire safety, civic participation, reading, and drug abuse prevention. The company donates older equipment to residents who have completed computer training. In addition to life skills training, all of the Neighborhood Networks centers run afterschool programs for children.

Wingate Management Company

Wingate Management Company's commitment to Neighborhood Networks has been invaluable since 1995. After the discontinuation of the Drug Elimination Grant, the company has provided 95 percent of the funding for five years to Operation P.E.A.C.E. After operating a successful afterschool and summer academy program, Operation P.E.A.C.E. expanded its mission to help parents and families in the Village of Bedford Pine community. Wingate made a commitment to this initiative by building a state-of-the-art learning center that helps families improve their lives. Wingate's support has helped the Neighborhood Networks center obtain matching funds from diverse sources to increase partnerships. Wingate's dedication has touched over 1,500 families in the Village of Bedford Pine and the surrounding community. Wingate provided operating and administrative funds for three Neighborhood Networks sites. The long-lasting dedication of Wingate Management Company is outstanding.

Craig Knudsvig, LaGrave Learning Center/Continental Homes Learning Center

Craig Knudsvig is the client services manager for the Grand Forks Housing Authority and oversees the operation of the LaGrave Learning Center, the Continental Homes Learning Center, the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, home ownership programs through Family Self-Sufficiency, first-time home buyer services, housing counseling services, and resident service coordinator services at five low-income, elderly, and disabled housing complexes. He has successfully initiated a partnership with the Grand Forks Public Schools to write and implement a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant to provide afterschool programming at Continental Homes Learning Center. Most of the success of this Neighborhood Networks center is due to Mr. Knudsvig's abilities to procure funding for programs through grantwriting. His programs have been awarded grants from Microsoft, the Beaumont Foundation, United Way special needs and community development block grants, Region IV Children's Services Coordinating Committee, the Bremer Foundation, and others. Mr. Knudsvig's dedication has sparked the development of three Neighborhood Networks centers in Grand Forks, North Dakota, with one more under construction, due to open in June 2005.

Carmen Porco, American Baptist Homes of Wisconsin

Carmen Porco's vision to offer computer facilities in assisted properties came years before HUD's creation of the Neighborhood Networks Initiative. With the inception of the Neighborhood Networks Initiative, Mr. Porco was in a position to be a leading force in the creation of some of the first centers in the nation. He opened two centers in 1994, Northport Apartments in August and

Packer Townhouses in December. Over the years, these and other centers he created evolved into very successful centers with high resident participation in a variety of occupational and educational programs that delivered employment opportunities and improved academic scores. Mr. Porco has actively sought out both local and national partnerships including Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America; Even Start Family Literacy; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and the Wisconsin Technical College System. He established centers at the six communities that he owns and/or manages.

Interstate Realty Management Company

Interstate Realty Management (IRM) Company opened its first Neighborhood Networks center in 1995—today it operates 40 centers with several centers in the planning stages. IRM employs an on-site computer center facilitator to conduct classes and develop relationships with local partners. The centers concentrate on computer literacy, job readiness, and life skills classes, to ensure every participant has the knowledge to succeed. Each center is unique to the property where it is located. On elderly properties, seniors concentrate on computer literacy, accessing services and the Internet. Philadelphia's IRM Neighborhood Networks centers were pilot sites for financial literacy and security training in collaboration with the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor and HUD.

Albert Browne, Community Preservation and Development Corporation

Albert Browne is a visionary leader in the Neighborhood Networks Initiative. As director of the Community Preservation and Development Corporation's (CPDC) Community Programs Division, Mr. Browne shaped Edgewood Terrace as one of the nation's first Neighborhood Networks communities. Where others saw idle children, discouraged adults, and crime-ridden streets, Mr. Browne saw potential. Thanks to his hard work and persuasiveness, two more CPDC properties have joined the Neighborhood Networks family. Thanks to Mr. Browne's leadership, CPDC has contributed \$250,000 to \$300,000 annually over the past 10 years to programming in its three Neighborhood Networks centers. He has also raised nearly \$15 million in cash and in-kind contributions, which resulted from strategic partnerships he initiated and pursued. Mr. Browne strives to move CPDC's properties onto the cutting edge, and beyond.

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS honors partners who have consistently contributed resources to Neighborhood Networks centers, allowing for greater access to opportunity for multifamily property residents.

Awards in this category presented by Frederick Tombar III, Assistant Deputy Assistant Secretary, Multifamily Housing Programs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Ulyses Bridges, Director, Field Asset Management Division, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Duval County Public Schools

For more than five years, the Hollybrook Neighborhood Networks Center has collaborated with the Duval County Public Schools via the William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program. Plagued with poor education and a digital divide, the Hollybrook community has been provided with GED classes, family literacy programs, parenting classes, on-site childcare, computer equipment, and resident employment through collaborative efforts with the Duval County Public Schools. The Even Start Family Literacy Program helps parents earn their GED while providing quality education for their children. The digital divide of residents has been lessened due to the computers that have been donated to the parent resource center. With the help of the Duval County Public Schools, the Hollybrook Neighborhood Networks Center has helped seven residents earn their GED in the past two school years. This strong bond continues to strengthen over 100 families. Duval County Public Schools are not just a partner in progress; they are partners for life.

Georgia State University, Office of Community Service Learning

Georgia State University (GSU) Office of Community Service Learning has contributed resources to Operation P.E.A.C.E. that would otherwise be unaffordable to the organization. At the very beginning of the Neighborhood Networks Initiative, this partner offered community policing classes. The classes covered what community policing meant to the Village of Bedford Pine. Twenty residents and 20 police officers received certificates of completion. Georgia State University's second initiative was sending out law students to conduct anger management workshops for 50 children in the afterschool program. This partner has offered support through work-study students for the past 10 years. The students were tutors and mentors during the school year. Each year, sororities and/or fraternities invite the afterschool participants to their Halloween party and donate gifts. This event exposes youth to a college setting and the opportunity to talk with college students. Operation P.E.A.C.E. and GSU have also collaborated in writing grant proposals for the Neighborhood Networks center.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has partnered with Neighborhood Networks to provide education on space, engineering, science, and math. Not only has NASA provided a number of training sessions in support of Neighborhood Networks events, they have also sponsored a program at the Northpointe Neighborhood Networks Center in Long Beach, California. This partnership with NASA has given residents that use Neighborhood Networks centers a chance to experience firsthand the wonders of space. It has also taught the residents the importance of a well-rounded education.

U.S. Department of Labor

The U.S. Department of Labor is a Neighborhood Networks national partner that offers a variety of resources to support centers in their goal of providing comprehensive workforce development programs for residents. The Department of Labor provides training at Neighborhood Networks events, and also a number of online resources, including the Coach, customized specifically for

Neighborhood Networks. Through this partnership, Neighborhood Networks centers have been able to provide job training to its residents.

U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid

The U.S. Department of Education Federal Student Aid has partnered with Neighborhood Networks to help students of all ages follow their dreams of furthering their education. The Department of Education Federal Student Aid has hosted seminars on site at many Neighborhood Networks centers to provide both adults and youth with financial aid options that open doors and inspire possibilities. The partnership also prepares Neighborhood Networks centers to become financial aid clearinghouses for residents and their surrounding communities, providing yet another reason for residents to view their Neighborhood Networks center as an essential resource.

Kidz Online

Kidz Online is a Neighborhood Networks national partner that has sponsored Neighborhood Networks events for many years. Through this partnership, programs, events, and resources have been shared with Neighborhood Networks centers everywhere. This partnership allows Neighborhood Networks centers to be connected to one another and their communities directly through the Internet.

COMMUNITY CONNECTOR honors a Neighborhood Networks consortium that has successfully leveraged its resources to increase the capacity of member centers to connect communities and create opportunities.

Award in this category presented by: **Thaddeus Miles**, President, Neighborhood Networks National Consortium and MASSImpact

Digital Promise

Formed in the spring of 1997 to address the growing problem of the digital divide, Digital Promise focuses on the needs of residents in low-income, elderly, and disabled housing communities in Washington. Originally known as the Washington State Neighborhood Networks Consortium, Digital Promise supports computer learning centers and helps the most underserved populations learn to use computers and the Internet.

A diverse and powerful coalition of people and resources, Digital Promise works in partnership with the private sector, community-based non-profits, government agencies, affordable housing centers, and residents to realize the vision of a community where no one is left behind.

This year, Digital Promise completed a project commissioned by the City of Seattle to develop a “toolkit” contained on one CD-ROM that can be used by computer center managers to provide resources and support to the people they serve.

To date, the organization has helped start and maintain over 50 computer learning centers in low-income housing developments in Washington, and distributed over \$50,000 of hardware and software.

Since its inception, Digital Promise has been seeking to form a connection between each of the centers it serves.

HUD NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS COORDINATOR HALLMARK SERVICE AWARD honors a HUD Neighborhood Networks Coordinator who is actively involved with center programs and/or makes every effort to serve as an active resource for Neighborhood Networks centers.

Award in this category presented by Delores Pruden, Director, Neighborhood Networks, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

William Miecuna, Project Manager, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, New York Office

William Miecuna has been the New York Office Neighborhood Networks Coordinator since 1999. In this position, he has provided a variety of services to ensure the continued successful operation and management of centers utilizing the latest technology and software. Mr. Miecuna develops training and provides technical assistance on the Strategic Tracking and Reporting Tool (START)—Neighborhood Networks' online business plan. The training and TA provided by Mr. Miecuna has led to the approval of 10 START business plans in the New York Office jurisdiction during the past year. Mr. Miecuna helped establish a partnership between Tanya Towers and the Magic Johnson Foundation/Hewlett Packard (HP) to upgrade a center that included 25 new HP computers, software, and high-speed Internet access service. He coordinated a partnership between Nikon Inc. and three Neighborhood Networks centers with Digital Media Programs that received donated digital cameras, lenses, and other accessories; the Beaumont Foundation donated wireless laptops. Mr. Miecuna's nomination of a Neighborhood Networks center operated by the Harlem Congregation for Community Improvement Inc. resulted in the funding of a Cisco Training Academy certification program for West Harlem residents. Recently, Mr. Miecuna was able to obtain 21 new PCs for six Neighborhood Network centers from IBM that had been used at the Republican National Convention in New York City. Mr. Miecuna continuously works with new centers to ensure that the center site meets all HUD requirements, including accessibility to persons with special needs.

DIRECTOR'S HONORS presented to HUD staff for their lasting contributions to the Multifamily Neighborhood Networks Initiative

Awards in this category presented by Delores Pruden, Director, Neighborhood Networks, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Honorees: **Charles Famuliner**, Director, Richmond, VA Multifamily Program Center, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Shirley Machonis, Project Manager, Neighborhood Networks Staff, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Headquarters Office

Sarah Richey-Johnson, Program Manager, Neighborhood Networks Staff, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Headquarters Office

Tarrie Eckhart, Service Coordinator SuperNOFA Lottery Grants Program, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Seattle Office

Donald Freeman, Housing Contract Services Specialist, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Los Angeles Office

